

chairman and leading member of his party on the committee—a senator who was respected on both sides of the aisle. These men protected the legitimate partisan interests of their respective parties and the path was not always smooth, especially behind closed doors, but they understood that their colleagues, as well as the nation, were depending upon them to be responsible and seek the truth. Authority and accountability were clearly placed on the committee, and its members performed accordingly.

Select committees are not perfect creations by any means. A clear narrative is often difficult to produce under any circumstances. However, a select committee is simply much more likely to produce focused and credible results. Soon we will see if the United States Congress is still capable of coming together toward the common goal of getting to the bottom of a very serious matter. Or, are decisions about select committees simply reflective of positions based upon whose ox is in danger of being gored?

HONOR OF JERRY POLONSKY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 18, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today I have the honor of speaking on behalf of my dear friend, Jerry Polonsky, who on Sunday, December 20th will be celebrating his retirement as acting Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America.

I've known Jerry for many years—we are both from the great hometown of Levittown, Pennsylvania. Everyone in town who knows Jerry knows that he has been a great leader in our community. The best way to describe Jerry is a "natural born leader," an advocate for everything that's right and good for this country.

Jerry is a great American story. Earlier in his career, Jerry worked for an insurance company in Philadelphia, while also running his own printing business out of his home. He also served our nation's military proudly during the Korean War in a "classified" position, and has been married to his lovely wife Barbara for over 50 years.

Jerry's earlier career endeavors and military experience don't even begin to sum up his lifelong accomplishments. In addition, Jerry has served as the Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, and his commitment to their mission is unending. For many years, Jerry has volunteered his time and efforts to the department's cause to ensure that those who have fought our nation's battles receive the treatment and the respect they deserve. With Jerry's help, many returning veterans have received the care they need through the Jewish War Veterans. Also, Jerry has been a strong advocate for the state of Israel, fighting to ensure that peace and prosperity continue to reign true in the Jewish state.

Jerry has devoted his life to helping those in need, and has inspired many of us who have had the great pleasure of knowing him. He is a hero to his community, our country, his family, and to me. Jerry, I wish you and your family all the best. I wish you many more years of happiness and success. It is an honor to call you my friend.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FREDDY CABANAS

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 18, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend and legend in the Key West community, Fred Cabanas. An aerobatic daredevil, fourth generation Conch, loving husband, and father, Freddy died this past Tuesday doing what he loved, flying.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest sympathies and condolences to all who knew him, especially to his wife of over 30 years, Susan, and his two children, Kelly and Ray.

Freddy began flying at the age of 16, hanging around airport hangars at Key West International Airport, exchanging plane washes for flying lessons. In time, Freddy became an aviation legend in Key West.

Freddy helped put Key West on the map by opening ceremonies and competing in airshows with incredible stunts, both high in the sky and frighteningly close to the ground. His skill and enthusiasm for aviation were so ingrained in Key West culture that he was named General of the Conch Republic Air Force.

But, Freddy was more than a talented aviator. He was a skilled and generous businessman as well. As the proprietor of Cabanas Aeronautics Unlimited, he enjoyed providing sightseeing tours of the beautiful Florida Keys, thrill rides to the brave-hearted, and perhaps most of all, giving back to others, from mentoring other pilots to flying supplies to earthquake-stricken Haiti.

Mr. Speaker, the skies above Key West are just a little dimmer today without Freddy zooming overhead, but he will long be remembered for his renowned talent, gregarious spirit, generous heart, and the indelible mark he has left on the cultural fabric of Key West.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 18, 2013

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for

votes Monday, January 14. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 8, "nay" on rollcall vote 9 and "nay" on rollcall vote 10.

HONORING THE HONOREES OF THE ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 18, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorees of the 2013 Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet Dinner. The Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce serves the people and business community of the Lewiston-Auburn area, working hard to strengthen economic opportunity throughout the region and the State.

Each year, the Androscoggin Chamber of Commerce recognizes local businesses, business leaders, and individuals who promote and advance a vital and healthy business environment. These individuals and businesses are committed to strengthening opportunity and prosperity in Maine.

This year's award recipients include Barbara Dagley of Carbonite Inc., recipient of Business Leadership Award for a Larger Company; Kurk Lalemand of Next Level Business Coaching and John Stass of Katandin Furniture, recipients of the Business Leadership Awards for Smaller Companies; Larry Raymond of Issacson and Raymond, recipient of Ray Geiger Award; Rita Dube, Julia Sleeper and Kim Pelletier, recipients of the Community Service Leadership Awards; Rick Jones of Jones Associates, recipient of the Poland Business Award; Nick Benoit of Benoit's Bakery and Wine Cellar, recipient of the Lisbon Business Award; Nancy Ricker of Ricker Hill Orchards, recipient of the Turner Business Award; Russ Barlow, recipient of the Education Award; Sherry Spencer of Proctor and Gamble-Tambrands, recipient of the "Cool Chamber Award;" Dick Roy of Mechanics Savings Bank, recipient of the Ken Addition Small Business Advocate Award; Kim Jacques of Revelation Massage, recipient of the 2013 New Member of the Year Award; and Susan Hall of the Vault and Kevin Dean and Emil Clavet of Electricity Maine, recipients of the President's Award.

These recipients are among the best that Maine has to offer. Through their leadership and incredible commitment to their communities and the region, Maine is a better place to live and do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the Androscoggin Chamber of Commerce and these individuals on their outstanding service and achievement.